

# Worker Safety Improving

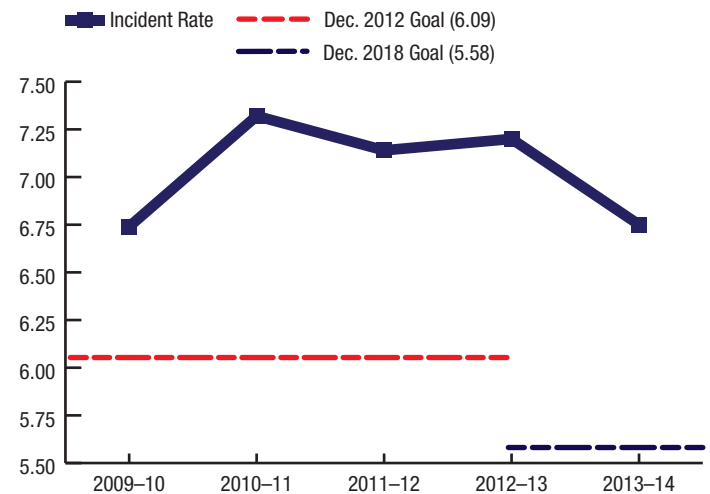
## Worker Illnesses and Injuries Drop

Caltrans measures work-related illnesses and injuries using the worker incident rate, a formula that measures the number of injuries for every 200,000 hours worked. A worker incident is any work-related injury or illness that requires medical attention. Work-related injuries and illnesses affect employee morale and may cost the public through increased workers' compensation insurance premiums and lost production.

Our worker incident rate dropped from 7.20 in 2013 to 6.75 in the second quarter of 2014. There has been a steady downward trend in the worker incident rate in recent years, and we have set a new goal of reducing the worker incident rate to 5.58 by 2018.

At Caltrans, we are always looking for ways to increase the focus on worker safety. In addition to our regular activities that emphasize safety, each spring our employees participate in National Work Zone Awareness Week and the Caltrans Workers

## Worker Incident Rate



Source: Office of Health and Safety

Memorial. The memorial pays tribute to Caltrans workers who lost their lives building, maintaining, and operating California's world-class transportation system. The memorial is a reminder that safety is a year-round priority, and nothing is more important than the safety of our workers and the public.

Left to right, Kevin Lindsey, Alex Valdez, and Rick Chavez of the Caltrans Honor Guard place a memorial cone at the 2014 Workers Memorial, which honors the department's workers who lost their lives on the job.



## Preventable Motor Vehicle Incidents Decline

In addition to measuring worker illnesses and injuries, we track the number of motor vehicle incidents, which are collisions that a Caltrans employee could have avoided. They can range from a scrape on a Caltrans vehicle to a fatality. Motor vehicle incidents not only endanger lives, but they can also be costly. Costs incurred in these vehicle incidents are not reimbursable and come directly from Caltrans' budget. Reducing preventable motor vehicle incidents means fewer resources are used for vehicle repairs.

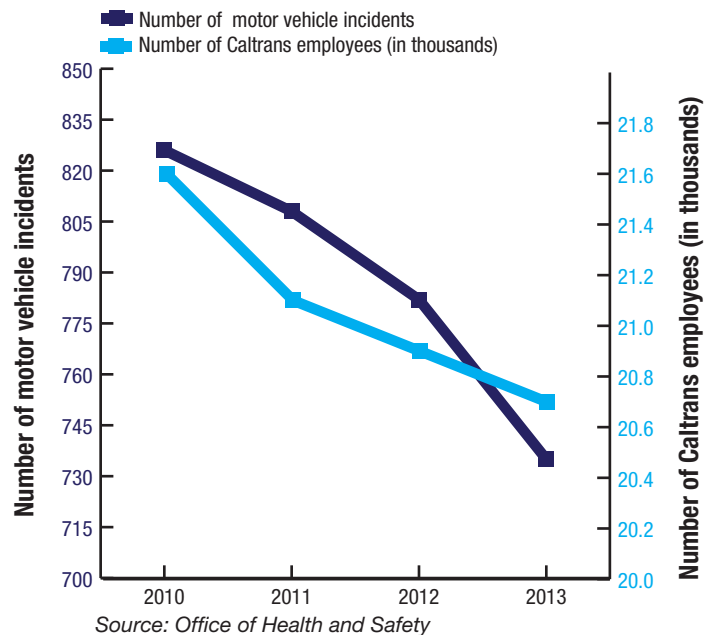
Our goal is to improve employee safety by reducing these incidents. In calendar year 2013, preventable motor vehicle incidents decreased 6 percent from the previous year, dropping from 782 to 735 incidents.

We have reduced the number of vehicles in our fleet, which may contribute to the decrease in preventable motor vehicle incidents. We've also increased the safety training available to our employees, and the required defensive driver training has been updated. Caltrans has also put added emphasis on safety in our Motorized Equipment Training Academy training courses.

Contributor: Wayne Wolfe, Office of Health and Safety

**The safety of the public and our employees will always be our No. 1 priority.**

### Preventable Motor Vehicle Incidents



The Caltrans Dynamic Testing Facility in West Sacramento performs safety tests on guardrails to protect our work crews, the traveling public, and our highway infrastructure. Caltrans is the only state transportation department that has its own crash test facility and has been performing these tests for more than 50 years.

